Survey on use of Rivers as Waterways

1062. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a immenese scope to use the rivers as waterways in the country;

(b) if so, whether Government have conducted any survey in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Natioal Transport Policy Committee (1980) nas identified ten waterways having potential for declaration and development as National Waterways.

Three of them namely the Ganga, the Brahmaputra and the West Coast Canal have been declared as National Waterways. Hydrographic surveys and Techno-economic studies have been conducted on some other waterways such as DVC canal, Barak river, East Coast Canal integrated with Brahmani and Mahanadi river system, Kakinada-Mercaunam canal integrated with Godavari and Krishna river system, extension of NW-3 etc. Their declaration as national waterways would depend on availability of funds.

(d) Does not arise.

Additional Grants to states for tourism

1063. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have provided additional funds/grants to some selected States for improving infrastructures to promote tourism;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, whether Government will consider providing more grants in this regard?